

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



10/518591



(43) International Publication Date  
29 January 2004 (29.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/008852 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A01N 33/18, 25/12, 25/28
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2003/007254
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 July 2003 (07.07.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/397,742 22 July 2002 (22.07.2002) US
- (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): BASF CORPORATION [US/US]; 3000 Continental Drive North, Mount Olive, NJ 07828-1234 (US). BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT [DE/DE]; ., 67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SWEAT, Jonathan [US/US]; 2443 Castelburg Drive, Apex, NC 27502 (US). DEXTER, Robin [US/US]; 541 Freedom Drive, Yardley, PA 19067 (US).
- (74) Agent: VONEND, Michael; Basf Aktiengesellschaft, ., 67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS OF USING DINITROANILINE COMPOUNDS AS MICROCAPSULE FORMULATIONS

(57) Abstract: The present invention describes a method of inhibiting the growth of an undesired plant by contacting the plant with a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition. The microcapsule composition includes a dinitroaniline compound and the microcapsule has a median diameter from about 3 micrometers to about 10 micrometers. The present invention further describes a composition for inhibiting the growth of an undesired plant containing a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition. The microcapsule composition includes a dinitroaniline compound and the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.

WO 2004/008852 A1

## METHODS OF USING DINITROANILINE COMPOUNDS AS MICROCAPSULE FORMULATIONS

### Field of the Invention

5

The present invention relates to new herbicidal methods of use for dinitroaniline compounds, in particular, the present invention relates to herbicidal methods for dinitroaniline compounds formulated as microcapsules.

### 10 Background of the Invention

The commercial emulsifiable concentrate formulations of certain herbicides are often mixed with water and applied to the soil surface. Application to a dry soil surface that remains dry for 10 to 14 days without rainfall or irrigation may lead to a dramatic reduction in weed control. This reduced efficacy is believed to be due to volatilization and photodegradation of the active ingredient. In addition, recent trends in tillage methods ("no-till") result in the accretion of large amounts of plant materials on the surface of the soil. These are mainly cellulosic materials comprising dead stalks and leaves from the previous harvest, generally called "trash". In no-till conditions the herbicide is applied over the trash. Certain formulations of herbicides, notably EC formulations are absorbed by the trash. When this occurs, a reduced amount of herbicide reaches the soil which is the intended target. As a result the herbicide may not be present in the soil in herbicidal amounts or to control weed growth. This absorption of herbicide is not fully released even after rainfall.

25

Traditionally dinitroanilines that are formulated as emulsifiable concentrates can increase phytotoxicity caused by the herbicide or by the tank mix partners used. When dinitroanilines are applied after the crop has emerged (postemergence), there is frequently considerable damage to the crop. EC formulations are especially noted for crop damage post emergence.

30

As such, a need exists for controlling weeds in dry weather conditions by minimizing volatilization and/or photodegradation. In addition, there is a need for a formulation which can be applied post emergence without causing crop damage. There is a need for formulations which are not absorbed by trash, so as to provide better weed control.

35

### Summary of the Invention

As embodied and broadly described herein, this invention, in one aspect, relates to a method of inhibiting the growth of an undesired plant by application of a herbicidally

40

effective amount of a microcapsule composition. The application may be pre-plant incorporated, pre-emergence, pre-transplanting or early post-emergence. The microcapsule composition includes a dinitroaniline compound and the microcapsule has a median diameter from about 3 micrometers to about 10 micrometers.

5

In addition, the invention relates to a method of inhibiting the growth of an undesired plant by contacting the plant with a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition wherein the microcapsules contain a dinitroaniline compound and the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 % to about 10 %.

10

The method of the invention decreases the volatilization of the active ingredient as compared to standard formulations. It also provides for decreased photodegradation of the active ingredients. In addition, the method of the instant invention provides for increased safety of the crop being protected either by mitigating damage from a tank mix partner or by minimizing the effect of the herbicide on the crop being affected. Microcapsule formulations of this invention show a safening effect, i.e. much less damage to a variety of crops compared with EC formulations, when applied post-emergence.

15

Finally, microcapsule formulations of this invention are absorbed on trash to a much smaller extent than EC formulations, and are more effective in weed control under no-till field conditions.

20

Advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

25

#### Detailed Description

30

The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments of the invention and the examples included therein.

35

Before the present compounds, compositions, and methods are disclosed and described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to specific synthetic methods of making that may of course vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting.

In this specification and in the claims that follow, reference will be made to a number of terms that shall be defined to have the following meanings:

5 As used throughout, the term "contacting" is used to mean at least an instance of exposure of at least one plant cell to the present composition by applying the microcapsule composition using any method known in the art.

10 In general, "herbicidally effective amount" means the amount needed to achieve an observable herbicidal effect on plant growth, including the effects of plant necrosis, plant death, growth inhibition, reproduction inhibition, inhibition of proliferation, and removal, destruction, or otherwise diminishing the occurrence and activity of a plant. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the potency and, therefore, a "herbicidally effective amount," can vary for the various compositions used in the invention.

15 The term "plant" as used herein means terrestrial plants and aquatic plants. Inclusive of terrestrial plants are germinating seeds, emerging seedlings and herbaceous vegetation including the roots and above-ground portions, as well as established woody plants. Inclusive of aquatic plants are algae, vegetative organisms free-floating and immersed species that are normally rooted in soil. A non-exhaustive list of plants includes the following genera without restriction: Abutilon, Amaranthus, Artemisia, Asclepias, Avena, Axonopus, Borreria, Brachiaria, Brassica, Bromus, Chenopodium, Cirsium, Commelina, Convolvulus, Cynodon, Cyperus, Digitaria, Echinochloa, Eleusine, Elymus, Equisetum, Erodium, Helianthus, Imperata, Ipomoea, Kochia, Lolium, Malva, Oryza, Ottochloa, Panicum, Paspalum, Phalaris, Phragmites, Polygonum, Portulaca, 20 Pteridium, Pueraria, Rubus, Salsola, Setaria, Sida, Sinapis, Sorghum, Triticum, Typha, Ulex, Xanthium and Zea.

Broadleaf species are exemplified without limitation by the following: velvetleaf (Abutilon theophrasti), pigweed (Amaranthus spp.), mugwort (Artemisia spp.), milkweed 30 (Asclepias spp.), buttonweed (Borreria spp.), oilseed rape, canola, indian mustard, etc. (Brassica spp.), canada thistle (Cirsium arvense), commelina (Commelina spp.), field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis), filaree (Erodium spp.), sunflower (Helianthus spp.), morning glory (Ipomoea spp.), kochia (Kochia scoparia), mallow (Malva spp.), wild buckwheat, smartweed, etc. (Polygonum spp.), purslane (Portulaca spp.), kudzu (Pueraria spp.), russian thistle (Salsola spp.), sida (Sida spp.), wild mustard (Sinapis arvensis) and cocklebur (Xanthium spp.). 35

Grass species are exemplified without limitation by the following: wild oat (Avena fatua), carpetgrass (Axonopus spp.), brachiaria (Brachiaria spp.), downy brome (Bromus tectorum), bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon), yellow nutsedge (Cyperus esculentus). 40

lentus), purple nutsedge (*C. rotundus*), crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.), barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*), quackgrass (*Elymus repens*), lalang (*Imperata cylindrica*), annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), ottochloa (*Ottochloa nodosa*), guineagrass

5 (*Panicum maximum*), dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), canarygrass (*Phalaris* spp.), reed (*Phragmites* spp.), foxtail (*Setaria* spp.), johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), cattail (*Typha* spp.), and corn (*Zea mays*).

- 10 Other plant species are exemplified without limitation by the following: horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

- 15 The microcapsules of the present invention may be formed by any process known in the art. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,705,174 and 5,910,314 both to Benoff et al., describe suitable microcapsule formulations. As such, both of these patent applications are incorporated by reference in their entireties for all purposes.

- 20 The microcapsules include a salt water-immiscible material within a shell wall of a polycondensate suspended in an aqueous salt solution. One exemplary process for making the microcapsules includes: providing an aqueous solution containing a salt or mixture of salts and an emulsifier or mixture of emulsifiers; dispersing, with agitation, in the aqueous solution, a salt water-immiscible solution containing a first reactive component
- 25 required to form the shell wall and the salt water-immiscible material to form a dispersion; and adding, with agitation, to the dispersion, a second reactive component required to form the shell wall which reacts with the first reactive component to form the polycondensate shell wall about the salt water-immiscible material.

- 30 The stability of the microcapsule compositions of this invention is achieved in part through the use of a salt or mixture of salts in the process used to prepare the compositions. The salt or mixture of salts decreases the aqueous solubility of the material to be encapsulated and, thereby, reduces the amount of non-encapsulated material present in the microcapsule compositions of the present invention. This process provides microcapsule compositions which may contain high concentrations of salt water-
- 35 immiscible materials.

- Salts suitable for use in the process of the present invention include alkali metal salts such as lithium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, lithium nitrate, sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, lithium sulfate, sodium sulfate, potassium sulfate, sodium
- 40 monohydrogen phosphate, potassium monohydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen

phosphate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate and the like; alkaline earth metal salts such as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium nitrate, calcium nitrate, magnesium sulfate and the like; and ammonium salts such as ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium monohydrogen phosphate, ammonium dihydrogen phosphate and the like. Preferred salts for use in this invention include sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and magnesium sulfate, with magnesium Sulfate being especially preferred.

The microcapsule compositions may be prepared using a wide variety of emulsifiers. In particular, emulsifiers such as ethoxylated lignosulfonic acid salts, lignosulfonic acid salts, oxidized lignins, lignin salts, salts of styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, salts of partial esters of styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, partial salts of polyacrylic acid, partial salts of polyacrylic acid terpolymers and the like are suitable for use in the process of this invention. In the above described emulsifiers, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium and ammonium salts are generally preferred with sodium and magnesium salts being particularly preferred. Preferred emulsifiers for use in this invention include ethoxylated lignosulfonic acid salts, lignosulfonic acid salts and oxidized lignins, with lignosulfonic acid salts being more preferred, and the sodium salt of lignosulfonic acid being most preferred.

The aqueous solution of the present invention preferably contains about 5% to 30%, more preferably about 15% to 30%, by weight of the salt or mixture of salts, depending on the type of salt. With an especially high molecular weight salts, the weight percentage will be higher, possibly up to about 40%. With less than 5% salt the benefits of the present invention are less apparent and with greater than 30% (or 40%) the risk of an oversaturated solution is increased. The aqueous solution also contains preferably about 0.5% to 5%, more preferably about 1 % to 3%, by weight of the emulsifier or mixture of emulsifiers.

The present application pertains, in particular, to microcapsules that include at least one dinitroaniline compound. Exemplary dinitroaniline compounds include pendimethalin, trifluralin, ethalfluralin, butralin and benfluralin. The microcapsule compositions of the present invention preferably include about 5% to 60%, more preferably about 20% to 50%, by weight of the dinitroaniline compound.

The salt water-immiscible solution is prepared by mixing the first reactive wall forming component with the dinitroaniline compound at a temperature above the melting point of the dinitroaniline compound. Alternatively, the salt water-immiscible solution may be prepared by mixing the first reactive wall forming component with a solution of the dinitroaniline compound in a suitable salt water-immiscible solvent.

Salt water-immiscible solvents which are suitable for use include solvents which do not react undesirably with any of the ingredients used in the invention process. Suitable solvents include salt water-immiscible hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated hydrocarbons, chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons, ketones, long chain esters and mixtures thereof.

The polycondensate shell wall of the present invention may be any known shell wall material and is preferably a polyurea, a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polycarbonate or a polysulfonamide, with a polyurea shell wall being especially preferred. The polycondensate shell wall may be prepared from reactive components which are well known in the art. Preferably, the polycondensate shell wall is prepared by reacting a first reactive component selected from the group consisting of a polyisocyanate, a polyacid chloride, a polychloroformate and a polysulfonyl chloride with a complementary second reactive component selected from the group consisting of a polyamine and polyol to form the appropriate polycondensate shell wall. In a preferred process of the present invention, a polyisocyanate is reacted with a polyamine to form a polyurea shell wall.

Polyisocyanates which are suitable for use include di- and triisocyanates wherein the isocyanate groups are attached to an aliphatic or aromatic group. Suitable polyisocyanates include tetramethylene diisocyanate, pentamethylene diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate, toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate, polymethylene polyphenylene isocyanate, 2,4,4'-diphenyl ether triisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diphenyl diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-diphenyl diisocyanate, 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'4"-triphenylmethane triisocyanate, the reaction product of tetramethylxylene diisocyanate and trimethylol propane, and the like with polymethylene polyphenylene isocyanate being preferred.

Polyamines suitable for use in the process of the present invention include ethylenediamine, propylene-1,3-diamine, tetramethylenediamine, pentamethylenediamine, 1,6-hexamethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine, tetraethylenepentamine, pentaethylenhexamine, 4,9-dioxadodecane-1, 12-diamine, 1,3-phenylenediamine, 2,4- and 2,6-toluenediamine, 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane and the like with 1,6-hexamethylenediamine being preferred. Hydrochloride salts of those polyamines may also be used in the process of the present invention.

The salt water-immiscible solution preferably contains about 1% to 15%, more preferably about 2% to 8%, by weight of the first reactive wall forming component. The second reactive wall forming component is preferably present in an amount of about 0.3% to

5%, more preferably about 0.6% to 3%, by weight relative to that of the salt water-immiscible solution.

5 Various shell wall thicknesses may be utilized in the present invention. In particular, for use with dinitroaniline compounds, the preferred wall thickness is from about 1% to about 10%. Even more preferably, the wall thickness is from about 2% to about 5%. This amount is defined as the sum of the first reactive wall forming component amount plus the second wall forming amount divided by the sum of the dinitroaniline compound amount plus the first and second reactive wall forming component amounts times 100.

10 The process of making the microcapsules is generally conducted at an elevated temperature to increase the solubility of the salt, to maintain the salt water-immiscible material in a liquid state, and to enhance the wall forming reaction rate. This process is preferably conducted at a temperature of about 35°C to 85°C and is more preferably conducted at a temperature of about 50°C to 70°C.

20 The microcapsules prepared by the process of this invention preferably have a median diameter of about 3 micrometers to 50 micrometers and more preferably about 3 micrometers to 10 micrometers.

Other optional ingredients include agronomically acceptable inert solid or liquid carriers, anti-settling agents, salts, antifoams, surfactants, pH-adjusters, anti-freeze agents, and the like may be added to the microcapsule compositions.

25 In particular, the present invention provides concentrated microcapsule herbicidal compositions which comprise about 10% to 70%, preferably about 30% to 50%, by weight of a dinitroaniline compound; about 30% to 90%, preferably about 50% to 70%, by weight of an aqueous solution which contains about 0.01 % to 0.05% by weight of a anti-settling agent, and up to about 0.5% by weight of an antifoam.

30 If desired, the microcapsules may be separated out of the microcapsule compositions prepared by the process of the present invention by methods known in the art such as filtration or spray drying to obtain storage-stable flowable powders.

35 When operating in accordance with the present invention, the growth of an undesired plant may inhibited or controlled by contacting the plant with a herbicidally effective amount of the composition of the present invention. The application of such herbicidal compositions to terrestrial plants can be carried out by conventional methods, e.g. boom and hand sprayers and aerial sprayers. The compositions can also be applied from airplanes as an aerial spray because of their effectiveness at low dosages.



The application of a herbicidally effective amount of the compositions of this invention to the target plant is dependent upon the response desired in the plant as well as such other factors as the plant species and stage of development thereof and the amount of rainfall. In foliar treatment for the control of terrestrial plants, the active ingredients are desirably applied in amounts from about 0.01 to about 20 or more pounds per acre. In applications for the control of aquatic plants, the active ingredients are desirably applied in amounts of from about 0.01 parts per million to about 1000 parts per million, based on the aquatic medium. The compounds of the present compositions may be readily synthesized using techniques generally known to synthetic organic chemists.

### Experimental

The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure and description of how the components, compositions, articles, devices, and/or methods claimed herein are made and evaluated, and are intended to be purely exemplary of the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers (e.g., amounts, temperature, etc.) but some errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, percent is percent by weight given the component and the total weight of the composition, temperature is in °C or is at ambient temperature, and pressure is at or near atmospheric. Emulsifiable concentrates, known formulations, are identified as "EC". Formulations of the invention are identified as "CS".

#### Example 1

Pendimethalin CS and Trifluralin CS were prepared essentially according to the procedure set forth in US patent 5705174. The formulation contained the following components where the figures are % w/w of each component:

Component	Trifluralin CS	Pendimethalin CS
Active Ingredient	43.52 (96%pure)	38.72 (100%pure)
Reax 88B 15% solution (Na lignosulfonate, emulsifier	5.28	—
Diwatex 200 15% solution	—	6.66
THIND 30 AF antifoam	0.04	0.052
Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	17.05	18.24

Water	qs100	qs100
Mondur MRS poly phenyl polymethyl isocyanate	1.04	1.32
Hexamethylene diamine (HMDA) 25% solution	1.45	1.84
Kelzan S 2% solution	3.15	2.00

### Example 2

Two trays were prepared with soil containing 3.2% organic material, pH of 4.8, cation exchange capacity (CEC) (meq/100gms) of 25.2, 20% sand, 60% silt, and 20% clay, silt loam. The two trays were treated with pendimethalin, at a rate of 1.0 lb per acre of the active ingredient and 20 gallons of carrier per acre - one tray with pendimethalin CS (4% wall thickness) and one tray with pendimethalin EC. Crabgrass (*digitaria* spp.) seed was uniformly spread over each tray and covered with a very thin layer of soil prior to treating. The trays were not watered for 14 days. Six weeks after treatment, the tray treated with pendimethalin CS had 95% crabgrass control and the tray treated with pendimethalin EC had 70% crabgrass control. This example illustrates the volatilization of the EC formulation and the relative stability of the microcapsule formulation on the soil surface. The residual amount of herbicide is greater for the microcapsules and has a greater herbicidal effect than the EC formulation.

### Example 3

Diluted formulations of Pendimethalin CS (4% wall thickness, capsule diameter 7.0 microns) and Pendimethalin EC and Trifluralin CS (3.1% wall thickness, capsule diameter 10.0 microns) and Trifluralin EC were applied to glass fiber filter papers and placed in an oven in forced draft at 45°C. At intervals of days, the papers were removed and the residual active ingredient assayed as shown in Table 1 where it can be seen that the microcapsule formulations of dinitroanilines of this invention lose less herbicide by volatilization than the EC formulations.

Table 1: Results of Volatilization Testing

Day	Percentage of Active Ingredient Remaining			
	Pendimethalin in CS	Pendimethalin in EC	Trifluralin CS	Trifluralin EC
0	100	100	100	100
1	91.3	43.9	100	0
3	84.3	14.1	96.0	0

## Example 4

Pendimethalin CS (4% wall thickness, microcapsule size = 7.0 microns, median diameter) and pendimethalin EC formulations were applied to segregated corn trash (leaf, stalk, pith) dropwise and allowed to absorb for 15 minutes. Then the pieces of trash were placed in water and shaken until all removable pendimethalin was rinsed out. The concentration of pendimethalin in the rinsate was then assayed, as a percentage of the amount added. The results are set forth in Table 2 and show that the amounts of pendimethalin removable from corn trash are greater when formulated as microcapsules of the invention.

Table 2: Results of Availability Testing

Corn Trash	Percentage of Removable Pendimethalin	
	Pendimethalin CS	Pendimethalin EC
Leaf	98.5	25.0
Stalk	45.6	38.8
Pith	83.8	57.4

## Example 5

A mixed grass/alfalfa field contained 4-inch alfalfa, 4-inch Orchard grass and 2.5-inch reed canary grass. Pendimethalin CS and Pendimethalin EC were applied to separate portions of the field. One month after the application, a ten-foot by 2.5-foot section of each plot was cut with a sickle bar mower and the alfalfa and grass component were separated and weighed. The results are set forth in Table 3 where it can be seen that at higher application rates The microcapsule formulation increases the desirable alfalfa yield relative to the EC formulation.

Table 3: Results of Safety Testing-Alfalfa

Formulation	Rate lb ai/acre	% Grass reduction (visual)
EC	2.0	0
CS	2.0	0
EC	3.0	28.3
CS	3.0	5.0

EC	4.0	35.0
CS	4.0	5.0

## Example 6

- 5 In a greenhouse test, lettuce seeds (Waldmann's Dark Green M.I.) were planted and treated with pendimethalin EC or pendimethalin CS at the rate of 0.75 lb ai/A. The germinated lettuce was observed at 11 and 14 days after treatment. In both cases the microcapsule formulation caused less damage to lettuce than the EC formulation. The results are set forth in Table 4.

10 Table 4: Results of Safety Testing-Lettuce Preemergent

Pendimethalin Formulation	11 Days after Treatment			14 Days after Treatment		
	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis
EC	70.0	0.0	0.0	95.0	50.0	0.0
CS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## Example 7

- 15 In a greenhouse test, lettuce plants (Waldmann's Dark Green M.I.) at the 2-4 leaf stage of growth were treated with pendimethalin EC or pendimethalin CS at the rates of 0.75 and 1.5 lb ai/A. The lettuce was observed at 7 and 14 days after treatment. At both application rates the microcapsule formulation caused less damage to lettuce than the EC formulation. The results are set forth in Table 5.

20

Table 5: Results of Safety Testing-Lettuce Post emergent

Pendimethalin Formulation	7 Days after Treatment			14 Days after Treatment		
	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis
EC 0.75 lb ai/A	50.0	10.0	10.0	50.0	40.0	40.0
CS 0.75 lb ai/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	10.0
EC 1.5 lb ai/A	50.0	10.0	10.0	50.0	50.0	40.0
CS 1.5 lb ai/A	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	10.0

## Example 8

- In a greenhouse test, tomato plants (Celebrity) 5-6" were treated with pendimethalin EC or pendimethalin CS at the rates of 0.75 and 1.5 lb ai/A. The tomato 14 plants were observed at 8 and 11 days after treatment. At both application rates the microcapsule formulation caused less damage to tomatoes than the EC formulation. The results are set forth in Table 6.

Table 6: Results of Safety Testing-Tomato Post emergent

Pendimethalin Formulation	8 Days after Treatment			11 Days after Treatment		
	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis	%Stunt	%Chlor	% Necrosis
EC 0.75 lb ai/A	40.0	16.7	3.3	36.7	13.3	3.3
ME 0.75 lb ai/A	3.3	10.0	0.0	3.3	10.0	0.0
EC 1.5 lb ai/A	60.0	26.7	13.3	50.0	30.0	13.3
ME 1.5 lb ai/A	23.3	20.0	0.0	26.7	16.7	0.0

#### Example 9

Distinct® herbicide, a mixture of diflufenzopyr and dicamba-sodium, was tank-mixed with pendimethalin CS and pendimethalin EC and applied to V3 and V6 stage of corn.

The treatments were as follows:

A	Distinct, 12 oz/acre and Pendimethalin EC	115 fl oz/acre
B	Distinct, 12 oz/acre and Pendimethalin CS	100 fl oz/acre
C	Distinct, 12 oz/acre	
D	Distinct, 8 oz/acre and Pendimethalin EC	218 fl oz/acre
E	Distinct, 8 oz/acre and Pendimethalin CS	183 fl oz/acre
F	Distinct, 8 oz/acre	

The plants were rated at 7 days after treatment and post tassel. The results are set forth in Table 7 and show that the microcapsule CS composition caused less damage to the corn than the EC formulation.

Table 7: Results of Safety Testing-Tank-mix Combination

Tank Mix	% Lean 7 DAT V3	% Lean 7 DAT V6	% Leaf Fusing Post Tassel
A	3	52	16
B	3	35	0
C	3	38	0
D	3	36	
E	2	23	
F	1	29	

5 Throughout this application, various publications are referenced. The disclosures of those publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application for all purposes.

10 It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following

15 claims.

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for the preemergence control of undesirable plant species comprising applying to soil containing seeds of the undesirable plant a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition comprising a dinitroaniline compound.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the microcapsule has a median diameter from about 3 micrometers to about 10 micrometers.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the dinitroaniline compound is pendimethalin or trifluralin.
- 15 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the undesired plant is a monocot or dicot.
- 20 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the undesired plant is crabgrass.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied at a rate from about 0.5 lb ai/A to about 2.0 lb ai/A.
- 25 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the dinitroaniline compound is pendimethalin or trifluralin.
- 30 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the undesired plant is crabgrass.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the microcapsule composition is applied as tank-mix with another herbicide formulation.
- 35 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the other herbicide formulation comprises diflufenzopyr.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein the other herbicide formulation comprises dicamba.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the other herbicide formulation comprises diflufenzopyr and dicamba.
- 5 15. A method for the control of undesirable plants in the presence of desirable crop plants which comprises applying to soil containing the desirable plants and seeds of the undesirable plant a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition comprising a dinitroaniline compound.
- 10 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the microcapsule has a median diameter from about 3 micrometers to about 10 micrometers.
17. The method of claim 15 wherein the dinitroaniline compound is pendimethalin or trifluralin.
- 15 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the undesired plant is a monocot or dicot.
- 20 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the undesired plant is crabgrass.
21. The method of claim 15, wherein the composition is applied at a rate from about 0.5 lb ai/A to about 2.0 lb ai/A.
- 25 22. The method of claim 15 wherein the microcapsule has a wall with a thickness from about 1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.
23. The method of claim 22 wherein the dinitroaniline compound is pendimethalin or trifluralin.
- 30 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the undesired plant is crabgrass.
25. The method of claim 15 wherein the desired plant is lettuce, tomatoes or corn.
- 35 26. A method for safening a desirable crop from the effects of a herbicide applied to control undesirable plants in the presence of the desirable crop plants which comprises applying a herbicidally effective amount of a microcapsule composition comprising a dinitroaniline compound.



27. A method for reducing the volatility of a dinitroaniline herbicidal compound that is applied to control an undesirable plant which comprises preparing a microcapsule formulation of the dinitroaniline herbicidal compound.
- 5 28. A method for reducing the amount of a dinitroaniline herbicidal compound that is absorbed by cellulosic materials on a soil surface which comprises applying to the cellulosic material on the soil surface a microcapsule formulation of a dinitroaniline herbicidal compound.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 03/07254

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A01N33/18 A01N25/12 A01N25/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 953 285 A (DU PONT) 3 November 1999 (1999-11-03)  the whole document	1,3,5, 11,15, 17,19, 25,26
X	EP 0 380 325 A (GRIFFIN CORP) 1 August 1990 (1990-08-01)  the whole document	1,3,6, 15,17, 20,28
X	US 4 938 797 A (HAESSLIN HANS W ET AL) 3 July 1990 (1990-07-03) the whole document	1,3,8,9, 15,28

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 August 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/09/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Filali, S

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/07254

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0953285	A	03-11-1999	EP 0953285 A1	03-11-1999
EP 0380325	A	01-08-1990	US 5160530 A	03-11-1992
			AU 639678 B2	05-08-1993
			AU 4791390 A	02-08-1990
			BR 9000271 A	20-11-1990
			CA 2007320 A1	24-07-1990
			CN 1045330 A	19-09-1990
			DD 297761 A5	23-01-1992
			DE 380325 T1	21-03-1991
			EP 0380325 A2	01-08-1990
			GR 90300190 T1	10-10-1991
			HU 53771 A2	28-12-1990
			IN 170673 A1	02-05-1992
			JP 2288805 A	28-11-1990
			NZ 232208 A	28-04-1993
			PL 283412 A1	15-07-1991
			PL 287257 A1	09-09-1991
			PL 287258 A1	09-09-1991
			PT 92951 A	31-07-1990
			RO 106643 B1	30-06-1993
			US 5461027 A	24-10-1995
			US 5073191 A	17-12-1991
			US 5317004 A	31-05-1994
			YU 12590 A1	31-10-1991
			ZA 9000201 A	31-10-1990
US 4938797	A	03-07-1990	AT 77916 T	15-07-1992
			AU 588913 B2	28-09-1989
			AU 6264386 A	19-03-1987
			CA 1292678 C	03-12-1991
			DE 3685920 D1	13-08-1992
			EP 0214936 A2	18-03-1987
			IL 80009 A	15-12-1989
			JP 2044771 C	09-04-1996
			JP 7064682 B	12-07-1995
			JP 62067003 A	26-03-1987
			LT 2611 R3	25-03-1994
			LV 5193 A3	10-10-1993
			MD 16 B1	31-05-1994
			SU 1741602 A3	15-06-1992
			ZA 8606953 A	27-04-1988